

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
November 30, 2005**

Michael Dennis (Industrial Hygiene Group, LANL) reported on the performance of the air curtain destructors that were used during the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project. These wood burning units were used instead of open-air burning because they reduced the emissions of particulate matter and smoke by up to 98 percent. The burners were also efficient, consuming 96 percent of the woody material with only 4 percent residual ash. Throughout the life of the project 151,000 cubic yards of wood were burned. In addition, 2000 cords of firewood were distributed to the public. The total cost of this project was \$1.6 million or \$10.61 per cubic yard of wood burned.

Gary Kemp (Bandelier National Monument) announced that the prescribed fire in the Upper Frijoles Canyon area is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The recent dry weather has reduced the fuel moistures to desired levels.

Sandy Hurlocker (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that the burning of piles in the Santa Fe Watershed has been suspended until the arrival of additional snowfall.

Sam Loftin (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the East Jemez Resource Council will meet next Thursday at 9:00 in the Ecology Group Conference Room. The meeting will feature a report by the New Mexico Environment Department. Sam also distributed a list of prescribed fires that have been scheduled by the Santa Fe National Forest for the winter of 2005-2006.

Manny L'esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that the fire suppression equipment at LANL has been maintained and placed in winter storage.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its November 2005 Outlook that moderate drought continues throughout much of the southwest. For the past 30 days, temperatures have been above average and most of the Southwest has been drier than average. Above average temperatures and near-average precipitation should continue for the next several months. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 14, at TA-21, Building 210 in the ENV-ECO (Ecology Group) Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.